

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 /034 W

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R 021151Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2499

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1043

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, CE

SUBJ: CABINET MINISTER APOLOGIZES RE CIA ALLEGATIONS

REF: COLOMBO 0740

1. AS I WAS LEAVING IPU OPENING CEREMONY APRIL 1, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND INTERNAL TRADE ILANGARATNE DREW ME ASIDE BRIEFLY AND APOLOGIZED FOR HIS RECENT PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS RE CIA. EXPLAINED HE HAD MADE SUCH STATEMENTS BECAUSE PRESIDENT FORD HAD ORDERED INVESTIGATION OF CIA AND HE THEREFORE FELT HIS OWN REMARKS WERE WARRANTED. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF MY CONCERN ON THIS SUBJECT, AS EXPRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER, HE WANTED ME TO KNOW HE DID NOT PLAN TO MAKE SIMILAR STATEMENTS IN FUTURE.

2. I TOLD ILANGARANTE I APPRECIATED HIS ASSURANCES AND CONFIRMED THAT I INDEED HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT HIS PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS RE PART AND PRESENT CIA ACTIVITIES IN SRI LANKA. AS I HAD TOLD PRIME MINISTER, IF HE HAD ANY EVIDENCE RE CIA INVOLVEMENT, I WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH HIM ON URGENT BASIS. HOWEVER, PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE COULD ONLY TEND TO HARM EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ILANGARANTE REITERATED
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HE DID NOT PLAN

TO MAKE FURTHER STATEMENTS RE CIA
AND WE PARTED AMICABLY.

3. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE BUT MY HOPE IS
THAT ILANGARATNE IN FACT WILL LIVE UP TO HIS
ASSURANCES-AT LEST IN THE SHORT TERM.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTER COUNSELORS, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COLOMB01043
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0137
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750490/aaaadelf.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 COLOMBO 0740
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINET MINISTER APOLOGIZES RE CIA ALLEGATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, US, CE, CIA, (ILANGARATNE, TIKIRI BANDARA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006